



Frank Coletta and Caroline Searcy – hosts for 2010 Racing's Night of Champions (far left), John Rippon (left), a happy managing owner of Melito (Luxbet.com NSW Champion Horse of the Year), and trainer Gerald Ryan speaking

Redkite flies high at Awards night

RACING'S NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS RECEIVED RAVE REVIEWS ON A NIGHT THAT HAD IT ALL – SUMPTUOUS FOOD, FINE WINES, GREAT ENTERTAINMENT AND AWARDS GALORE

WORDS: SHARON HUNT (EXECUTIVE OFFICER – NSWROA)



Oh What A Night! To quote from a classic recording to describe a classic night – NSW Racehorse Owners Association’s Racing’s Night of Champions was truly a night no attendee will ever forget.

This year’s gala black tie event last month returned to The Grand Pavilion at Rosehill Gardens Racecourse.

In a break from the traditional opening of the event by commencing with the awards presentation, this year Racing’s Night of Champions Organising Committee member, Darren Farnham, created a spectacular opening when feature artist David Campbell literally ‘came out of the dark’ and in no time at all, had the large crowd in the palm of his hand.

The aptly named ‘Keep on Running’ was the chosen opening number and guests were mesmerised by the sheer energy and showmanship of this truly amazing artist.

After the spectacular opening the hosts for the night, Frank Coletta and Caroline Searcy, invited NSWROA President, Ray McDowell, to the stage to officially welcome guests. Ray in turn introduced the Minister for Gaming & Racing, the Hon. Kevin Greene MP, who kindly assisted with the award presentations throughout the night.

Racing awards nights don’t come any bigger than this night of nights for the NSW industry, the equine equivalent to the Academy Awards whereby NSWROA pays homage to the best the State has to offer both in the equine and human categories.

There was glitz and glamour in abundance with celebrities proudly stepping out in support of NSWROA’s chosen charity, Redkite.

The red carpet interviews, conducted by Frank Coletta and Ali Mutch featured the



Red carpet interviewers Frank Coletta and Ali Mutch

stars of the racing season as well as racing royalty and celebrities.

Racing’s Night of Champions is in aid of Redkite, Australia’s leading cancer support charity, which provides valuable assistance to children with cancer and their families. Their essential emotional, financial and educational services ensure that children with cancer and their families feel supported through the often long and difficult cancer journey.

Now onto the awards ceremony and the top honour of the night, the Luxbet.com NSW Champion Horse of the Year title, went to Melito who was also successful in the NSW Three-Year-Old of the Year category.

NSWROA presented an additional seven awards on the night. These category

awards and the winners were:-

The Bart Cummings Medal was taken out by Nash Rawiller making it a double celebration for him on the night as he also picked up the George Moore Award for the Sydney Jockeys’ Premiership.

Other awards to be presented on the night included the Queen of the Autumn Award (Faint Perfume), the T.J. Smith Award (Peter Snowden), the Theo Green Award (Tommy Berry) and the Sydney Strapper of the Year (Melissa Williams).

Another highlight was the keynote speech of Redkite CEO, Jenni Seton, who thanked the industry as a whole for the generosity they have given to Redkite via this function, in recent years.

At the conclusion of the awards ceremony David Campbell returned to the stage and continued to enthrall guests with his unique and masterful style.

By the time the first notes of ‘Shout’ were ringing out there wasn’t a space left on the dance floor with the large crowd bopping away to yet another classic number.

Speaking of classics, Richard Callander was at his brilliant best as guest auctioneer of the Monster Auction. With eight incredible lots up for grabs, Richard worked the room into spirited bidding contests reminiscent of a day at the Australian Easter Yearling Sale at the William Inglis & Son complex at Randwick.

AWARD	WINNERS
NSW CHAMPION HORSE OF THE YEAR	Melito
NSW TWO-YEAR-OLD OF THE YEAR	Pressday
NSW THREE-YEAR-OLD OF THE YEAR	Melito
NSW SPRINTER/MILER OF THE YEAR	Rangirangdoo (NZ)
NSW MIDDLE DISTANCE HORSE OF THE YEAR	Metal Bender (NZ)
NSW STAYER OF THE YEAR	Jessicabeel (NZ)
NSW COUNTRY CHAMPION HORSE OF THE YEAR	Sniper’s Bullet
NSW PROVINCIAL CHAMPION HORSE OF THE YEAR	Brilliant Light

The Carrazzo Silent Auction was also a hive of excitement with some 33 items up for grabs. Network 10 Sports Tonight Reporter, Andrew Blow, was on hand to give regular updates to the massive audience on how their bids were progressing.

The International Animal Health Products Raffle, with three wonderful prizes on offer, was yet another huge success on the night.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the importance of our sponsors. The success of Racing's Night of Champions relies predominantly on sponsorship monies, the monster auction and the silent auction.

The event this year was proudly sponsored by Luxbet.com, Racing NSW, Patinack Farm, TVN, Count Charitable, Ambassador Travel, Emirates, Gow Gates Insurance Brokers, Australian Jockey Club, Sydney Turf Club, New Zealand Bloodstock, Inglis, Carrazzo Consulting, International Animal Health Products, Taylors Wines, Tooheys, Sydney Audio Visual and Arinex.

Our thanks also to Frank Coletta and Caroline Searcy; the Hon. Kevin Greene, MP, our guest presenter; Jenni Seton, our keynote speaker; Richard Callander; Andrew Blow, for his assistance with the Silent Auction; Ali Mutch, our Fashionista and red carpet presenter, our feature artist the incredible David Campbell and DJ Scott Pullen of Groove Academy.

I would also like to thank my fellow Racing Night of Champions Organising Committee members – Ray McDowell, Darren Farnham, Kelly McLean and Melissa Momitsas for their tremendous work and also Robyn Bowes, Simon Stebbins, Harriet Frankland.

And finally in closing, my thanks to all who attended the function to support Redkite and I look forward to seeing you all at the 2011 Racing's Night of Champions. **RNSW**

RIGHT: David Campbell belts out a tune on award night
BELOW: Richard Callander conducts the Monster Auction

